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A radio talk by Mr. W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through Station WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, January 7, 1930 at 1:10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

As suggested in my broadcast last week, it behooves us to plan very carefully especially with regard to marginal crops to plant and their acreage. I again want to emphasize the importance of having a good home garden, and of providing plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables for home use. I hope to make the Garden Calendar notes that come to you each Tuesday at this hour a real information service and will appreciate your inquiries and problems as a guide in determining the points to be discussed.

I had a letter a few days ago from my old friend, Wm. C. Hall, Secretary of the Lufkin, Texas, Chamber of Commerce, telling me about his new radio which was a Christmas present and how the Farm and Home Hour Garden Calendar was the first program he heard when he tuned in. Mr. Hall told about the big snow they had for Christmas in southeastern Texas, how his neighbors' children had built snow-men in their yards and crowned them with straw hats. It does one good to hear from such loyal friends.

Weather conditions during the past 30 days here at Washington, D. C. were so favorable that it was possible to do considerable garden and orchard work. I for one took advantage of the opportunity and spent all spare moments doing a number of odd jobs which will save time later when I come to spring work in my garden. For example, I made a pretty thorough clean-up of the garden and of my small fruits, and also transplanted or moved a number of trees and plants, the location of which I wished to change.

During the fall I built concrete walks around my house, and the sod removed from where the walks were located was piled, with about an equal amount of manure, to rot for soil. To this I added cleanings from the poultry house and considerable garden loam, also a little sand, and the other afternoon when I was at home, I worked it over completely, chopping the sods with a sharp spade and thoroughly mixing all of the materials so that the soil will be uniform. I am really proud of my splendid compost pile, and feel that I have a decided advantage over my neighbors who have not prepared any soil for their spring plant growing.

If the weather continues favorable, I expect to do all my pruning and spraying during the next week or two. My time is limited to short periods mornings and evenings, and I will not have much daylight until the days lengthen somewhat, but my plan is to get this class of work done just as rapidly as opportunity presents itself.

Those of you who live in the South are already planting certain garden crops, and those of you who live in the North will not even think of planting for many weeks to come, but it is a good plan wherever the weather permits to clean up and fertilize the garden, and especially to prune and spray all fruit trees.



As I have mentioned in former broadcasts, scale insects appear to be numerous especially where only a few fruit trees are being grown around the home. The dormant season when the leaves are off is the proper time to spray deciduous trees with lime sulphur, or one of the special oil emulsions to rid them of San Jose scale.

I am calling your attention to these points at this time, because I know the tendency on the part of most people to defer pruning, spraying, and similar work until the rush of spring planting comes on. Then it is often too late to give the fruit and other plantings about the home proper attention. If you haven't the information as to how the work should be done, you can secure it from your State college of agriculture or experiment station or from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

#### Danger of Poisoning

Recently, the members of several families in nearby Virginia were made violently ill, some of them barely escaping death, as a result of arsenical poisoning. The circumstances leading to the poisoning were veiled in the deepest mystery, but it finally developed that a package of calcium arsenate, left over from last season's fight on the Mexican bean beetle, was responsible. According to report, the package of poison was stored in the pantry of one of the Virginia homes, and, small children during the mother's absence found the package of arsenate and dumped its contents into an open sack of flour, mixing the poison with the flour. From this flour the mother made a number of small fruit cakes, also dressing for the Christmas turkey. A neighbor borrowed flour from which she made biscuits. One of the fruit cakes was purchased by a house-to-house saleslady who mailed it to a relative in Canada. All of those eating the food in which the poisoned flour was used became violently ill. The fruit cakes were all located by the authorities including the one sent to Canada, it being intercepted before the package containing it had been opened.

My reason for calling your attention to this case, which for a time baffled the investigators, is that arsenical and other poisons are being used very largely in the fight against fruit and vegetable insects, and that too great care can not be exercised in the handling and storage of these poisons. In no case should the poison be kept in the dwelling, much less in the kitchen or pantry where food is kept and prepared. Keep the poisons in their original packages, but store them where children can not possibly get them. I have poisons left over from last year's insect fight, but they are in a box overhead in my garage, and I am taking the further precaution of placing a lock on the box. A great responsibility rests upon every one who purchases or uses poisons for legitimate purposes, and one can not be too careful, especially in the storage of poison materials that are on hand at the close of the season.